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[No. 20 of 1897.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th May 1897.

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| | | | ASSAM PAPERS. |
| | | | Nil |

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| | BENGALI. | CALCUTTA. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Bangavasi" ... | Calcutta | 20,000 | 8th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "Basumatî" ... | Ditto | | 13th ditto. | |
| 3 | "Hitaishi" ... | Ditto | 800 | 11th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Hitavadi" ... | Ditto | About 4,000 | 7th ditto. | |
| 5 | "Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ... | Ditto | 1,250 | 8th ditto. | |
| 6 | "Navayuga" ... | Ditto | 290 | | |
| 7 | "Sahachar" ... | Ditto | About 500 | 5th ditto. | |
| 8 | "Samay" ... | Ditto | 8,000 | 14th ditto. | |
| 9 | "Sanjivani" ... | Ditto | 8,000 | 8th ditto. | |
| 10 | "Som Prakash" ... | Ditto | 800 | 10th ditto. | |
| 11 | "Sulabh Samachar" ... | Ditto | | 8th ditto. | |
| 12 | "Vikrampur" ... | Ditto | 200 | 7th ditto. | |
| | <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Banga Vidya Prakashika" | Ditto | 900 | 8th and 10th to 12th May 1897. | |
| 2 | "Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." | Ditto | 1,000 | 9th to 13th May, 1897. | |
| 3 | "Samvad Prabhakar" ... | Ditto | 1,132 | 8th and 10th to 12th May, 1897. | |
| 4 | "Samvad Purnachandrodaya" | Ditto | 200 | 7th and 13th May, 1897. | |
| 5 | "Sulabh Dainik" ... | Ditto | Read by 3,000 | 8th and 10th to 15th May, 1897. | |
| | HINDI. | CALCUTTA. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Bharat Mitra" ... | Calcutta | 2,000 | 6th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "Hindi Bangavasi" ... | Ditto | 10,000 | 10th ditto. | |
| | PERSIAN. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Hublul Mateen" ... | Ditto | 500 | | |
| | URDU. | CALCUTTA. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Darussultanat and Urdu Guide." | Calcutta | 310 | 6th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "General and Gauhariasfi" | Ditto | 330 | 8th ditto. | |

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> | BURDWAN DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Ulubaria Darpan" ... | Ulubaria | ... 650 | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Bankura Darpan" ... | Bankura | ... 500 | 8th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "Burdwan Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | ... 250 | 4th ditto. | |
| 3 | "Chinsura Vartavaha" ... | Chinsura | ... 620 | 9th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | ... 1,280 | 7th ditto. | |
| | BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i> | PRESIDENCY DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Murshidabad Hitaishi" ... | Murshidabad | ... 696 | 4th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ... | Berhampore | ... 300 | | This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued. |
| 3 | "Pratikar" ... | Ditto | ... 603 | 7th May, 1897. | |
| | URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i> | ORISSA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Sambalpur Hitaishini" ... | Bamra in the Central Provinces. | | 24th March, 1897. | This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained. |
| 2 | "Samvad Vahika" ... | Balasore | ... 190 | 25th ditto. | |
| 3 | "Uriya and Navasamvad" ... | Ditto | ... 309 | 24th ditto. | |
| 4 | "Utkal Dipika" ... | Cuttack | ... 480 | 27th ditto. | |
| | HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i> | PATNA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Bihar Bandhu" ... | Bankipur | ... About 600 | 20th April 1897. | |
| | <i>Bi-weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Aryavarta" ... | Dinapur | ... 1,000 | 5th and 8th May, 1897. | |
| | URDU. <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ... | Bankipur | ... 500 | 16th April and 7th May, 1897. | |
| 2 | "Gaya Punch" ... | Gaya | ... 400 | 3rd May, 1897. | |
| | BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> | BHAGALPUR DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Gaur Varta" ... | Malda | | 13th and 27th April 1897. | |
| | BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i> | RAJSHAHI DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Hindu Ranjika" ... | Boalia, Rajshahi | ... 243 | 5th May, 1897. | This paper is not regularly published for want of type. |
| 2 | "Rangpur Dikprakash" ... | Kakina, Rangpur | ... 180 | 6th ditto | |
| | HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." | Darjeeling | ... 700 | | |
| | BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> | DAACCA DIVISION. | | | |
| 1 | "Kasipur Nivasi" ... | Kasipur, Barisal | ... 315 | 27th April, 1897. | |

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | " Barisal Hitaishi " | Barisal | ... | | |
| 2 | " Charu Mihir " | Mymensingh | ... | 900 | 3rd May, 1897. |
| 3 | " Dacca Prakash " | Dacca | ... | 2,400 | 9th ditto. |
| 4 | " Sanjay " | Faridpur | ... | | 7th ditto. |
| 5 | " Saraswat Patra " | Dacca | ... | About 500 | 8th ditto. |
| <i>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | " Dacca Gazette " | Dacca | ... | 500 | 10th ditto. |
| <i>BENGALI.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | " Tripura Prakash " | Comilla | ... | 900 | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | " Sansodhini " | Chittagong | ... | 120 | 7th ditto. |
| <i>BENGALI.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>ASSAM.</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | " Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi " | Sylhet | ... | | |
| 2 | " Silchar " | Silchar, Cachar | ... | | |

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Darussultanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 6th May does not consider it good etiquette on the part of the Amir not to take a part in the public celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. If the Amir is unable to attend the celebration in person, he ought to send at least a few basketfuls of Kabuli fruits as a token of his friendship.

DARUSSULTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE.
May 6th, 1897.

2. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May has the following:—

The European Powers in the Græco-Turkish war. It is not the Sultan, the protector of Islam and the defender and representative of the Musalman faith, who has taken the aggressive in the Græco-Turkish war. He is not in any way to blame in the matter. It is Greece, a puny insignificant State, that provoked a quarrel with mighty Turkey. Greece took the aggressive and trespassed into the Sultan's territories. The Sultan was then forced to defend his rights. The bellicose attitude of Greece offended the great European Powers, and they assured Turkey of a speedy solution of the difficulty and threatened Greece, it is not known whether sincerely or not, with a visitation of their wrath. They even gave out that they would not allow the aggressor in the war to reap the benefit of the victory and that whoever would take the aggressive would suffer. The Sultan unhesitatingly abided by the dictation of the Powers and respected their decision. But the yielding of Turkey to the demand of the Powers emboldened Greece. War was inevitable, and the Porte could not but declare hostility with her enemy.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

But where are the Powers now, the Powers who vauntingly declared that they would not allow the aggressor to reap the advantages of a victory? Blustering Greece defied them and set their dictation at nought. Will not the great Powers teach Greece a lesson? But they do not appear to be at all inclined to give effect to their threat. They remain apparently unconcerned and indifferent. It is, however, declared that Turkey will not be allowed to enjoy the fruits of her victory. Is this just? Is this Christianlike? Is this worthy of impartial mediators? Inexplicable are the ways of the European Powers. If Turkey had taken the aggressive and defied the Powers in the way Greece has done, they would have certainly visited her with condign punishment. The conduct of the European Powers strikes us as strange. Is there, we ask in fear and astonishment, any political motive secretly at work in the Græco-Turkish question? Nothing, however, will be more cowardly and unsovereignlike on the part of the Powers than their keeping Turkey engaged in one direction, in order that they may gain their ends in another.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 10th, 1897.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 10th May says that the outbreak of the Russian movement on the bubonic plague in India has afforded Russia a good pretext for making a military display on the frontiers of Afghanistan. But the movement of Russian troops near the Amir's dominion has created in his mind the suspicion that Russia really intends to force a passage to India through his territory, and he has, therefore, sent a detachment of troops to encounter the enemy at the frontier. It is said that there was an exchange of shots between the two parties. England's attitude in the Græco-Turkish war may have displeased Russia, and her movements on the Afghan frontier are meant to be taken as a mark of that displeasure.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 27th April says that [the Barisal notification has armed the police with great powers for oppression of which it is making a free use to extort

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 27th, 1897.

money. The Barisal police has become very powerful under the present Magistrate, Mr. Beatson Bell. Banamali Babu, Sub-Registrar of Nalchhiti, Maulvi Abdul Samad, Sub-Registrar of Mehendiganj, Maulvi Mahmud Sahereb, zamindar of Agarpur, and Babu Ruhini Kumar Sen Chowdhuri, zamindar of Kirtipasa, have got into trouble on account of their inability to please the police. Everybody is uneasy from a fear of being reported against by the police.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1897.

5. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd May complains that the Sub-Inspector of the Chatmohar thana, in the Pabna district, has long remained in charge of that thana, and should be transferred. The District Superintendent of Police lately came to inspect the thana, but as that officer knows nothing of the Sub-Inspector's ways, the latter was able to please him by his obsequiousness.

The following will show how haughty the local police is. Abdul Gafar, a common constable, lately wanted to draw money from the local postal savings bank at an hour when such money is not allowed to be drawn, and the postmaster, having refused to comply with his request, abused, and was about to strike him. It is said that the constable had a grudge against the postmaster on account of the latter's refusal to let him read the newspapers that come to his office for delivery. It is said that the Sub-Inspector is trying to soothe the postmaster.

CHARU MIHIR.

6. The same paper publishes the following reports of scarcity :

Dapunia.—The family of Magha Shaikh, consisting of six or seven members besides himself, are suffering greatly from hunger. They are trying to relieve the pangs of hunger by keeping a cloth constantly wrapped tightly round their bellies, and are living upon unripe plantains and the spathe of the plantain tree. Ichha Shaikh of the same village, with his two infant children, is suffering equally from hunger. Unable to give any other food to his wailing infants, the unfortunate father is giving them the pulp of the *bel* fruit to eat. Uma Shaikh has been obliged by distress to divorce one of his two wives, and his other wife has gone to her father's house after six or seven days' starvation. Unable to bear the pangs of hunger, the man himself is roaming about like one gone mad. The raiyats of Kanhar and Bailar applied to their zamindar for a postponement of the realisation of rent, but their prayer has been rejected.

The editor says that he will arrange for the relief of the distressed families after a personal interview with the correspondent.

Bangha.—Since the transfer of the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Trailokyanath Sen, the zamindars have not afforded any help to their distressed raiyats. Government should not rest satisfied with leaving it to the zamindars to relieve distress. As it is, the people of Bangha, Salikha, and two or three other villages are receiving help neither from the Government nor from the zamindars. Many are become mere bone and skin, and are unable to carry on agricultural operations.

Dhanhata, Jagannathganj thana.—Severe distress at Dhanhata and eight or nine adjoining villages. Many are half dead from starvation. Even people reputed to be well off get meals at intervals of one or two days. Coarse rice is selling at Rs. 5.8 or Rs 6 per maund. The Subdivisional Officer of Tangail will greatly benefit the people of these parts, if he orders the local Police Sub-Inspector to relieve the distress.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

7. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May has received from Kushtia many letters about the recent cow-slaughter there (*see Report on Cow-slaughter at Kushtia*. Native Papers of 8th May, 1897, paragraph 6). These letters will clearly show that the Hindu residents of Kushtia have been deeply pained by the event. The authorities should see that Musalmans do not again publicly kill cows at Kushtia.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

8. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May complains that the District Magistrate of Jessore is fining the panchayets right and left for making delay in collecting the chaukidari tax. It is not to be expected that in this year of distress poor villagers will be able to punctually pay the chaukidari tax. The panchayet cannot press people for the tax whom they find in great distress. This is the reason why there is delay in the collection of the tax. The inefficiency of the chaukidars is notorious. They receive presents from the villagers on the occasion of their children's marriages. It is a pity that the panchayets should be punished for the sake of those who are so much favoured by the villagers.

MIRR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

9. The same paper observes that the *Gaur Varta* complains of the conduct of the District Superintendent of Police. The District Superintendent of Police, Malda. Superintendent came to pay a visit to the Gomastapur thana where he called for a palanquin. No palanquin, however, was available, but the Superintendent was told that he could get a horse. This answer offended him, and he ordered the head-constable to go to his boat every two hours to pay his compliments. The conduct of the Superintendent shows that he is not only a high-handed public servant, but is also an inefficient police officer.

10. A correspondent of the same paper complains of Hindu oppression of Musalmans in Kushtia. Hindu oppression of Musalmans in Kushtia. Twenty-one cows were slaughtered by Syud Ali Ollaha of Kushtia in his own garden with the permission of the authorities on the occasion of the *Fateha* ceremony of his father. The garden in which the cows were slaughtered is enclosed on all sides; but still the slaughter offended the Hindus, who oppressed and annoyed the Musalmans in various ways. Many of the invited Musalmans were prevented from going to the feast or taking part in its management. Dishes of rice and meat and various articles used on the occasion were either destroyed or stolen by low-class Musalmans at the instigation of the Hindus. On the 25th April an attempt was made by the Hindus to set fire to the Syud's house, and the attempt has not yet been given up. The Hindu students of the local school refused to sit with the Musalman students. Among those who went to the feast was a raiyat belonging to the Nator zamindari, who was severely assaulted by the zamindar's men. There were some other assault cases, all offshoots of the quarrel between the Hindus and the Musalmans.

The Hindus have combined against the Musalmans. Syud Ali Ollaha is being subjected to acts of petty tyranny. His bearers, washermen and barbers have struck work. The Hindu pleaders of the local bar have resolved not to take his cases at fees less than ten rupees. The Hindus have also stopped giving alms to Musalman *fakirs*. They have also outcasted some of their co-religionists who accepted presents of *dahi* from the Syud Saheb. The Kushtia Municipality has served him with a notice, calling on him to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under sections 21 and 23 of the municipal bye-law.

(b) — Working of the Courts.

11. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 27th April complains that an amla of the Backergunge District Court is in the habit of levying blackmail for every document filed in the Court. The authorities should keep a sharp eye on the abuses in registration offices and in Civil and Criminal Courts.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 27th, 1897.

12. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 4th May has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1897.

The Ranaghat case. There can be no two opinions about the seriousness of the offence with which the two Eurasian lads were charged. They would not have excited any the least sympathy even in a country where chastity is not so valued as it is in this country. A few years ago Colonel Baker committed a similar offence in England and raised a storm of indignation over his head. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and his social position was ruined. In India chastity is much more valued than in England. To outrage female modesty is therefore a more serious offence in this country. A European Magistrate might not be expected to realise the gravity of the offence, but in the present case the trying Magistrate was a Bengali, and he ought surely to have known how very serious the offence was. The proof was conclusive, and the accused confessed their guilt. The punishment ought to have been a heavy one, especially in view of the fact that outrages on female modesty have become extremely common on railways. But the Magistrate inflicted a very slight punishment on the accused in consideration of their youth!

13. The *Sahachar* of the 5th May has the following *anent* the ear-pulling case:—

SAHACHAR,
May 5th, 1897.

The ear-pulling case. In the first place, Mr. Pearson was wrong in retrying the case himself instead of transferring it to another Magistrate, as

he differed so materially from the High Court about the nature of the offence that had been committed.

In the second place, he was wrong in holding that Mr. Walmsley had no bad object in pulling Sashibhusan by the ear, but that he did so simply to draw the latter's attention to the time by the clock. But we humbly ask the Magistrate whether there was no other means of drawing Sashibhusan's attention. No one will say that the means which Mr. Walmsley adopted in this case is ever made use of in polite circles. There are certain acts the object of which must be assumed to be bad. If anybody gives another a slap on the face or kicks another on the breast, and then pleads that he did so merely to draw the latter's attention to something, will Mr. Pearson admit the plea? Pulling by the ear is reckoned in polite circles to be as great an affront as a slap on the face. Mr. Walmsley had certainly pulled Sasi Babu by the ear under the influence of anger. He pleads, however, that he had no bad object in doing so. It may be that he thought that to pull a man by the ear was not to insult him. But society, if asked, will pronounce a different verdict, and that was why the High Court held that the offence was not a trivial one.

It is a matter of regret that the *Englishman* should have reflected on the High Court in connection with the case. What is still more to be regretted is that it should have singled out Mr. Justice Ghosh for censure. The *Englishman* says that the High Court should not have ordered a retrial on so trivial a charge. If observations like these do not amount to contempt of court, we do not know what does. We hope that Sir Francis Maclean will take notice of these observations of the *Englishman* and protect the dignity of his Court.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May learns from a Purulia correspondent that a clerk having, by mistake, made a small error in calculating Mr. Maguire's pay, that officer frowned at him and said:—"Damned fool, stupid; you have reduced my pay by four pies"; and then calling for another bill form made out a bill with his own hand, calculating his pay to the last pie. If what the correspondent says be true, Mr. Maguire has behaved in a most ungentlemanly manner. If natives were not in the habit of calmly pocketing such insults, occurrences like this would be less frequent.

15. The same paper says that lately one Jadunath Dass has purchased from a Musalman a garden at Tollygunge, in which Musalmans, it is said, have slaughtered cows for many years past. After his purchase, Babu Jadunath prohibited cow-slaughter in the place; but the Musalmans insisted upon their right of slaughtering cows there, pleading long usage in support of their contention. Jadu Babu was thus compelled to seek the protection of the Magistrate of Alipore, who has referred him to a Civil Court. Has the Magistrate forgotten the Shambazar riot within so short a time that he refused to grant Jadu Babu the protection he seeks? The fact that Musalmans have slaughtered cows in the garden for many years past does not entitle them to slaughter cows there now without the permission of the present owner. If a European were to sell a piece of land to a Musalman and then insist upon slaughtering pigs there, what would the Musalmans say? If the Musalmans now insist upon slaughtering cows in the the garden, and if Jadu Babu, on the other hand, opposes them, a riot will be inevitable.

16. The same paper has not space enough to describe all the freaks of Mr. Ainslie again. Hearing that Mr. Cook, Manager of the Katras Jharia Coal Company,

was slaughtering cows near the Katrasgar station, a number of people assembled near that station on the 31st January last, and requested the head-constable of the local thana to interpose, offering to pay for the cows intended for slaughter more than what they had cost. The head-constable, therefore, went to Mr. Cook's bungalow, accompanied by a number of men, who came away as soon as Mr. Cook told them to do so. The head-constable, however, complained against those men. Mr. Ainslie at first told the head-constable that he

had failed to make out a case, but he was soon satisfied that a case had been made out. It is necessary to state here that Mr. Cook is the man who stood bail for Mr. Ainslie's father-in-law, Mr. O'Brien, when the latter was tried in 1896 at the Allahabad Sessions for defalcation.

For some days the accused brought counsel and pleaders from the higher Court, but, whether intentionally or not, Mr. Ainslie did not take up their case for those days. He has lately sentenced the accused to various terms of imprisonment, and the public are of opinion that they have been unjustly punished.

A local missionary who is a friend of Mr. Ainslie reported to him that there was distress near a mukarrari mauza belonging to him. Mr. Ainslie deputed a Sub-Deputy to enquire into the matter, but the Sub-Deputy could not discover any signs of distress there. Mr. Ainslie then went to the place himself, and ordered the excavation of two tanks as a relief measure. Having come to know that relief works had been opened in an obscure village, Mr. Luson, the then experienced Deputy Commissioner of Purulia, himself visited the place, and found that Mr. Ainslie was making a wrong use of money.

It is Mr. Ainslie's business to dispense justice, but so long is he in picking holes in the conduct of the Sub-Deputy who had presumed to contradict the missionary's report about the existence of distress near his mauza, and in fining the amla for petty faults in these days of scarcity, that he can scarcely find time to do his legitimate work. He constantly interferes, of his own motion, with the decisions of the above Sub-Deputy, and lets no opportunity pass by of insulting him. The fines inflicted by him are heavy, ordinarily amounting to half a month's pay.

The result of this is that his file is becoming heavier and heavier—a fact which made Mr. Maguire say that it was a misfortune to the people of those parts that they had to conduct cases at Govindapur.

17. Meher-uddin Akanda of Chandan Baisa, in the Bogra district, writes

The Second Munsif of Bogra. in the *Bangavasi* of the 8th May, complaining of the conduct of the Second Munsif of Bogra town.

The correspondent was a witness for the defendant in suit No. 69 of 1896 in the Court of the said Munsif. He had to attend court for six days, and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 22-10. He applied to the Munsif to sanction the cost, but that functionary tore his application to pieces, called him names, and ordered the peons to turn him out.

The editor hopes that the above is an exaggerated account of what actually occurred. There are Courts which are often very reluctant to sanction the expenses of witnesses. A friend of the editor's was once summoned as a witness by an Alipore Court. He prayed the Court to sanction the payment of his carriage-hire, amounting to Re. 1-8. The court sanctioned only 7 annas, and remarked that the fare demanded was unfairly high. This offended the witness, and he returned the 7 annas which was given him.

18. The same paper comments on the decision of the Chief Presidency

The crab case in the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta in the crab case. The Magistrate's Court. Howrah Magistrate fined a fish-woman Rs. 5 for a similar offence. Mr. Pearson has raised the fine to Rs. 20. So the severity of the punishment for at least one form of "cruelty to animals" is daily increasing. It is not known how far the severity will increase. Without knowing that, however, it will not be an easy matter to live in a world which is full of animals. How much one may ask will a bear-dancer be fined for piercing the nose of that animal; and passing a rope through the holes? How much, again, will a butcher be fined for stabbing a boar, and leaving it half dead for hours, so that its flesh may taste all the sweeter?

BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1897.

BANGAVASI.

(d)—*Education.*

19. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 4th May thanks Dr. Martin and Mr.

Simplification of the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination Ananda Mohun Bose for the simplification of the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination course.

The course, however, ought to have been much more simplified by abolishing hygiene along with mensuration and *samindari* and *mahjanai*. The boys cannot understand the principles of hygiene, and the two text-books on the subject contain very little that can be learnt with profit.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1897.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 4th, 1897.

PRATIKAR,
May 7th, 1897.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1897.

MHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1897.

20. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Haitishi* of the 4th May complains that the Head-master of the Murshidabad Nizamat School lately severely thrashed a student

The Head-master of the Murshidabad Nizamat School lately severely thrashed a student of the seventh class, a boy of 14 or 15, in the class-room, and then had him laid on a table, and publicly whipped on his bare buttocks by three or four servants of the school, and all this, because the student slightly beat another boy. The hurt has been pronounced by the local Assistant Surgeon as severe.

21. The *Pratikar* of the 7th May says that, thanks to Dr. Martin, the burden on primary students has been made lighter by the exclusion of *samindari* and mensuration from the curriculum. It will be well if "Saral Sarir Palan" and "Swasthyaraksha Pravesika" are similarly excluded. The necessity of getting those two books on hygiene by heart breaks down the health of students instead of improving it. No practical good results from the study of hygiene at school.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May says that one of the rules relating to the Srigopal Mallik Fellowship is that if any candidate or any agent of his goes to Babu Srigopal or to the members of the Syndicate for the purpose of canvassing, he will render himself ineligible for it. This rule is objectionable on two grounds, namely, (1) no man ought to be entrusted with the selection of a candidate in such a matter, who is not believed to be strong enough to resist a recommendation, (2) an enemy of a candidate may make him ineligible by pretending to canvass for him. It is desirable that a man like Mahamahopadhyaya Krishnanath Nyayapanchanan or Chandrakanta Tarkalankar should obtain the Fellowship, and it is to be feared that such men will be prevented by such a rule from standing as candidates for it.

23. In the opinion of the *Bangavasi* of the 8th May no good is likely to come of the Srigopal Mallik Fellowship. The Srigopal Mallik Fellowship cannot be understood even by Brahmins in the *Kaliyuga*, degraded and materialistic as they are. Babu Srigopal Mallik is most probably desirous of teaching the principles of the Vedanta Philosophy to the English-educated young men of this country without any distinction of caste. His object is not likely to be fulfilled. The money could be better utilised by endowing a few Vedantic *tols*. At least two such *tols* could be maintained with the interest on Rs. 25,000, and *tols* thus supported would have become permanent institutions for teaching the Vedanta to qualified persons. It is impossible to spread Vedantic knowledge in the country in five years. The lectures which will be delivered on the subject will most likely be full of misconstructions and misrepresentations of the Vedanta.

24. A correspondent of the *Mhir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May complains that the students of the Kushtia school are not properly behaving to the Musulman students. A

Hindu students in a Hindu-Musalman quarrel. A quarrel arose between the Hindus and the Musalmans of Kushtia, in consequence of the slaughter of cows in the house of a rich Musalman on the occasion of his father's *Fateha* ceremony (see above paragraph 10). It is a regret that Hindu students should take a part in this quarrel, and their teachers should fan race-feeling. On the 25th April the Hindu students called a private meeting in which they resolved to cut off all connection with the Musalman students. In the school they refused to sit with their Musalman fellow students. Their demand that the Musalman students should sit on separate benches was not, however, acceded to by the Head-master. Upon this the Hindu students left the school in a body, and were marked absent by the Head-master. They also called the Musalman students names and in all this they were encouraged by some of the Hindu teachers. It is in childhood that a boy's mind should be properly trained, and it is a pity that enmity, race-feeling and hatred instead of love, respect and reverence are being instilled into the minds of the boys of the Kushtia school.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 4th May complains of the prevalence of water-scarcity in the Burdwan district. The dredging of the silted up tanks may to a large extent remove this scarcity. The District Board

Water-scarcity in the Burdwan district.

has not funds enough for the purpose of digging tanks throughout the district, and it is urgently necessary that the Government should come to its help. Many applied to the Government for *takavi* loans with the view of digging tanks, but their prayer has not been heard. This is not as it should be. The Government will get back its money with interest, and it should not grudge to pay it when it will be utilised in removing water-scarcity and giving employment to many starving people in this year of scarcity.

26. A correspondent of the *Rangpur Dik Prakash* of the 6th May complains

Water scarcity in a village in a village in the Rangpur district. of the prevalence of water-scarcity in Tursighat, a village in the Rangpur district. The Govern-

ment was applied to for the removal of the grievance, but it has given the villagers to understand that they might apply for *takavi* loans at 8 annas interest per month. The people having nothing to eat in this year of scarcity, how will they re-pay their debt?

27. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 7th May complains of great

Water scarcity in two villages in the Khulna district. water scarcity at Salpabahirdiya and Pachani, in the Khulna district. The tanks in those villages are completely dry.

28. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 8th May complains of the prevalence

Water scarcity in the Bankura district. of acute water scarcity throughout the Bankura district. The District Board some time ago made a list of the places where wells should be dug.

So far, however, no steps have been taken to dig wells in many places. The Board has not given effect to the Government's order that at least Rs. 5,000 a year should be spent by a District Board on improving water-supply. Wells are being dug in those places only where people are paying half the cost. So acute is water scarcity in Saldiha and the adjacent villages that their inhabitants have to fetch water from a long distance. The inhabitants of Chhagulya, Benagarhi, &c., are supplied with water from a shallow well. The inhabitants of Chhinpur are drinking muddy water. Equally miserable is the state of things in Dhupsabad and Taldangra. Water is so scarce in some villages that people have to put out fire with dust.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th May regrets that Europeans are being

Appointment of Europeans to high posts in Court of Wards' estates. largely appointed to high posts in Court of Wards' estates. It is rumoured that Mr. Stevens will, on retirement, be appointed Manager of the Hutwa estate. It is bad that qualified and deserving

natives should be left out in the cold, and Europeans, after a long service, should be appointed to all high posts in the Court of Wards' estates. Not long ago natives used to be appointed Managers of such estates. Those days are gone, and European planters and retired European officials are monopolising posts to which natives used to be appointed. Within a few years European Managers have been appointed in Tikari, Narhan, Khagra, Dhanwar, Dumraon and Hutwa. Where will natives go, and how will they fare if all the loaves and fishes in the country are in this way monopolised by Europeans? A European indigo-planter has been temporarily appointed Manager of the Hutwa estate, to be succeeded by Mr. Stevens. Are not those who served as Dewan and Manager under the Raja fit for the responsible posts in which they once served so well, and is an indigo-planter better fitted for the post of Manager? It is a pity that even during the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie the claims of deserving natives should in this way be ignored.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

30. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 27th April says that many places near

Want of roads near Kasipur, in Kasipur have no roads. There is no road, for the Basergunge district. instance, from Dharmadi or Defulia to Kasipur Dattar *hat* and from thence to Mohanjanj *hat*.

RANGPUR DIK.
PRAKASH,
May 6th, 1897.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

BANKURA DARPARAN,
May 8th, 1897.

SANJIVANI,
May 8th, 1897.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 27th, 1897.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1897.

The road from Kishorganj to Barpara, in the Mymensingh district.

on its two sides remains uncleared. The Board does not probably attend to the repair of this road because none of its members live near it.

31. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd May complains that the old road from Kishorganj to Barpara is in such disrepair as to be almost impassable. The road was partially repaired some time ago, but many holes in it still remain to be filled up and the jungle

entered the Up Delhi passenger train at Burdwan. When the train was in motion, one of them, named Bhola, went to the adjoining compartment occupied by a woman and a boy of 15 or 16. This man and his companion began to sing foul songs. The boy protesting, they abused him, and were about to beat him. At Khana Junction the coolies alighted from the train and began to throw brickbats at the woman and other passengers. The correspondent reported the matter to the station-master, who said that he would attend to it presently, but did not do so, and gave orders to the train to start. On taking his seat the correspondent found that the coolies had stolen his umbrella.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1897.

33. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd May complains that mails for Calcutta are often delayed to the inconvenience and sometimes to the loss of the public, as the Sylhet steamer

cannot always reach Narayanganj before the train leaves. This inconvenience can be removed by sending mails for Calcutta by the Cachar steamer.

34. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May says that Government has declared the female clerks employed in the Postal Department

incompetent, and yet the heads of Postal Offices are, for some unknown reason, employing such clerks as

largely as ever. Graduates can now be had on a pay of Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, and it is wrong to employ ignorant females in preference to them.

35. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th May complains that pilgrims at the last Sipra Fair had to suffer great hardship and inconvenience. About twenty thousand Sannyasis assembled at the gate of Ujjain, but were refused entrance into the town. Sannayasis could assemble. The opportunity will not come for another twelve years. The principles of European hygiene are little understood by the Hindu public, who think that the Government is striking at the root of their religion—their last stay and support, for the sake of vague and indefinite scientific theories. The wounds thus inflicted will not soon heal.

36. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 10th May complains of the extreme rigour and severity of the rules of the value-payable system in force in the Indian Post Offices. These rules are

unfair to publishers and book-sellers, and have made them helpless tools in the hands of unscrupulous people. The unregistered value-payable system should be reformed. Innocent publishers and book-sellers should not be punished for the offence of a few unscrupulous book-sellers and publishers.

37. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 10th May regrets that of the three nominated Deputy Magistrates not one is a Hindu. This is the result of a careful picking and choosing by the Lieutenant-Governor!

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 10th, 1897.

Three nominated Deputy Magistrates.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May says that officials are opposing, in various ways, the election of Babu Surendranath Banerji to the Bengal Council as the representative of the Presidency Division. Not only Sir Charles Paul, but many officials at Darjeeling are canvassing for the Raja of Nasipur. The writer learns from a trustworthy source that a certain official at Darjeeling has written to a certain member of a District Board recommending the

Raja's election. Mr. Morshead is now the Magistrate of Jessore, and it is natural that he should be opposed to Surendranath. The writer does not know whether Mr. Morshead is opposing him publicly, but it is a striking fact that not one official member of the Jessore District Board has voted for Babu Surendranath. The writer also learns from a trustworthy source that the local Civil Surgeon, Dr. Dharmadas Basu, is publicly canvassing for another candidate, and that he has called at the houses of members accompanied by a son of that candidate. Most official members have, it is said, received from high officials letters recommending particular candidates. Indeed, the officials are acting in this matter so scandalously that Babu Surendranath will be justified in claiming a fresh election.

39. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th May is surprised that the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council did not oppose the introduction of the Tenancy Act Amendment Bill.

The Tenancy Act Amendment Bill. It is also a matter of regret that the patriotic native papers, conducted in English, had nothing to say on the subject. The *Pioneer* alone, an Anglo-Indian paper, raised its voice against the objectionable measure. The revenue law in this country is extremely rigorous, and its provisions are hard-and-fast and unbearably severe. The cadastral survey and record of rights introduced by Sir Charles Elliott are oppressive measures, and are a source of great hardship and inconvenience to the landed classes. The survey of land can never be complete. Alluvial and diluvial changes are incessantly going on, and property is frequently changing hands. The table of rates as fixed by the Government is also a source of great hardship and inconvenience.

40. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th May is glad that Babu Narendranath Sen has been elected by the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality to represent them in the Bengal Council elections.

Legislative Council. He is the fittest man for this purpose.

41. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May supports the candidature of Babus Surendranath Banerji and Jotindranath Rai Chaudhuri. Babu Surendranath's ability is undoubted and unquestioned. Rai Jotindranath is the scion of an aristocratic family. He is well educated and public-spirited, and is a man of great independence and undoubted ability. He encourages education, and takes great interest in all public movements. Next to Babu Surendranath Banerji he is best fitted to take a seat in the Legislative Council.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

42. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd May says that Government will do well to restore Zalim Singh to his throne on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. Lord Elgin has not yet been able to do anything to render his administration memorable, and he will immortalise himself by doing that gracious act.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

43. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 4th May complains that the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur disbelieved the report made by the Subdivisional Officer on the existence of distress at Supaul. The Magistrate probably refused to take any notice of the distress, because the money placed at his disposal by Government, for relief purposes, was small. He should have, however, reported the true state of things to Government, leaving it to do as it thought best.

44. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May complains that the Relief Committees are not working satisfactorily. On the 7th March last one Ramnivaran Bhattacharyya, of Karbala Tank Lane, Calcutta, applied to the Provincial Relief Committee for help. A month elapsed, and yet no reply came. Ramnivaran therefore applied for help a second time, and received the reply that his application had been sent to the District Charitable Society for disposal. Having

BANGAVASI,
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SANJIVANI.
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MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
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CHARU MIHIR,
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MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 4th, 1897.

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

heard nothing from the District Charitable Society, Ramnivaran wrote to that Society on the 27th April last, but he has yet received no reply. Ramnivaran and his family would have died long ago if they had not been relieved by some gentlemen.

HITAVADL
May 7th, 1897.

45. A correspondent of the same paper reports that severe distress prevails at Sankhai, Inatpur, Benepara, Uddhanpur, Naihati, Sitahati, Laliapur, Dattabati, Siluri, Vishnupur

and other villages within Ketagram thana, in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. The villagers are on the point of death from starvation. The Subdivisional Officer has done nothing to relieve the distress beyond cheering the villagers with re-assuring words. As two tanks are now being re-excavated at Sitahati, some labourers of that village as well as of the village Laliapur are obtaining some relief. But the condition of the rest is most miserable. Mortality in the village will commence if Government does not send relief within a week.

HITAVADL

46. The same paper publishes the following reports of scarcity:—

Reports of scarcity. *Dainhat, Houghly district.*—Dainhat not being an agricultural place, the villagers have no stores of paddy or rice, and have to buy rice every day in the market. But the import of rice having become smaller for some days, there was no retail sale of rice, and poor people had either to starve or to live on half ration. The *Dainhat Hitakari Sabha* has now arranged for the retail sale of rice, and yet many people are unable to purchase rice at its present high price. On the 21st April last, about 150 people represented their distress to the Subdivisional Officer of Katwa at the Dainhat Municipal Office, and were sent away with doles of rice purchased by that officer with his own money. But the distress has become too severe to be relieved by private charity.

Hariskul, Dacca district.—The undermentioned people were starving on the 28th April last:—

Mahes Muchi with three others.

Srinath Muchi with four others.

Mahes Muchi, No. 2, with three others.

Gosta's mother.

Sohar Muchi with four others.

Jagannath Muchi with four others.

Chandghar, Nadia district.—Relief work is being done unsatisfactorily owing to a single man having been placed in charge of four or five relief centres, each with jurisdiction over six or seven villages. Babu Dinabandhu Das, for instance, has been placed in charge of three or four other relief centres besides that at Chandghar, and he can therefore come to Chandghar only once a week. At Chandghar rice has to be distributed to 2,000 or 2,500 enrolled people, and Dinabandhu Babu can hardly finish the work of distribution even by working from 8 or 9 A.M. to 3 or 4 P.M. He is, therefore, unable to register the names of new applicants, who return disappointed week after week. Government should increase the number of relief officers.

Sad as is the condition of the poor, that of the middle classes is even sadder, for they will rather die than go to a relief centre. If Government does not promptly make arrangements for their relief, many poor respectable families will die of starvation.

On the 16th April last Mr. Finucane visited Chandpur accompanied by the Magistrates of Nadia and Berhampur. But as nobody knew that they would come, all applicants for relief were not present. It is not known what inference was drawn by those officials from this fact.

The mahajans are unable to supply rice in time for relief purposes, as they have not much money at their disposal, and have not yet been paid for the rice which they have already supplied.

SANJAY,
May 7th, 1897.

47. The *Sanjay* of the 7th May complains that the Subdivisional Officer of Goalundo is not prepared to render any help to the distressed people of that subdivision. What objection can the Maulvi have to grant *takvī* loans to those who apply for them? Is not the Maulvi aware that such loans are being granted at Faridpur?

48. The *Pratikar* of the 7th May says that Berhampur is flooded with famine-stricken beggars from the North-Western Provinces and the mufassal. These beggars beg from door to door in the evening. Starving children are to be found at every door at the time of meals. Photos of the emaciated figures that are found lying before the asylums of Maharani Swarnamayi and others will enable one to realise the true nature of the distress in Bengal.

PRATIKAR,
May 7th, 1897.

Starving beggars at Berhampur. Reports of distress. 49. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 8th May complains of the prevalence of distress in fifteen or sixteen villages in the Faridpur district. Many are actually starving, and many more are living on wild roots and plants.

BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1897.

Another correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of acute scarcity in Banlepasha in the 24-Parganas district. Tarini, a poor man with a family of seven, is in great distress, and is in urgent need of help from the Government.

50. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 8th May is glad that relief works have been opened in Gangajalghati, in the Bankura district. The wages paid to labourers on relief works are, however, very low, and are not likely to keep them in health and strength.

The editor observes that able-bodied people do not serve on relief works, as their service is better remunerated elsewhere. Labourers on relief works are mostly people not able-bodied or not willing to go out of their native villages. Low wages bring them insufficient food, and insufficient food soon breaks them down. This is the reason why famine and after-famine mortality is always so heavy in this country.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 8th, 1897.

51. The same paper writes that of the famine-stricken people in Gangajalghati, in the Bankura district, the most distressed are four widows—Abalya, Bhairabi, Kshudu and Sarada Dasi. They are all in a helpless condition, and will die if they do not receive immediate relief. The first three are high-caste ladies, and are reluctant to beg. The last has a child, and has none to help her.

BANKURA DARPAN.

52. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th May publishes letters from correspondents, complaining of the prevalence of acute distress in several parts of Bengal:—

SANJIVANI,
May 8th, 1897. 11

Mymensingh.—Cholera has broken out in Tangail as an after-effect of famine. The epidemic is raging in Ramnagar and Chinakhali, and scores are dying for want of medical treatment. The District and Local Boards are quite indifferent in the matter. Medical relief is immediately wanted. The distress of the people is increasing. Rice is selling at Rs. 5 per maund and paddy at 12 seers per rupee. Import of corn has practically stopped, and the prices of food-grains are sure to rise. The distress will continue till the *aus* crop is harvested.

Food and water scarcity prevails in Sherpur. Many are living on potato, arum and ground-nut. Many are not getting a meal of rice in two or three days. Hundreds have been reduced to skeletons. A helpless Musalman widow of Dum-Duma with two children was starving for several days. Unable to bear the sight of hungry children, she attempted suicide. The Government is requested to come to the help of the starving people at once. The help given by the local zamindars is not sufficient for the purpose of effectually relieving the distressed. Rice is selling at eight or nine seers per rupee.

The same is the state of things in Muktagacha, where a Musalman woman has sold a child for five rupees. The poor woman has been reduced to a skeleton and had nothing to feed her child with. She was forced to part with it in order to save its life.

Nadia.—Distress prevails in Murhagacha in the Nadia district. The Government has ordered a distribution of rice among the famine-stricken people at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week to an adult and $1\frac{3}{4}$ seers per week to a boy or a girl. People are, however, actually getting less than what has been ordered to be given to them. Many are unsuccessful in getting any rice at all. The Government is buying rice in the local market for distribution. This has raised the price of rice from Rs. 4-2 to Rs. 5-4 per maund. The Government should

buy rice elsewhere, otherwise the number of people requiring relief will increase. The villages of Sadhanparha, Sarhak Babirgachi, Dengaparha, Brahmanparha are also in a very bad condition.

Burdwan.—Lakshminarayan Das, teacher, Sitahati school, complains of the prevalence of distress in the villages of Gankhali, Inatpur, Beneparha, Noharpur, Naihati, Sitahati, Naliapur, Duttabati, Singuri and Vishnupur. The following people are in great distress with their families who are virtually starving:—

Naliapur.—Kailash Chandra Pami, Golamdas Bairagi, Braja Muchi, Nutu Muchi, Mukhan Muchi.

Naihati.—Kshudiram Rajak, Mukhan Rajak, Harekrishna Parui.

Inatpur.—Chhaku Shaik.

Siluri.—Kangali Muchi, Kunja Ghosh, Panchu Ghosh.

Duttabati.—Kshetranath Ghosh and Vaishnav Charan Dass.

Sitahati.—Nanda Biswas, Dhulu Malo, Rasik Muchi, Prema Muchi, Kshudiram Biswas.

Relief is at once wanted by the above-mentioned people, who are virtually starving.

Faridpur.—Acute distress prevails in Palang thana in the Faridpur district. The following people, besides those who decline to give out their names, are in great distress:—

1. Kalachand Ghosal, with family of six.
2. Nirad, a lame beggar.
3. Annada Charan Banerji, with a family of fourteen.
4. Widow of Guru Charan Karmakar, with a family of three.
5. Chintamoni Dasi, with a family of three. No one to help.
6. Nibaran Chandra Gop, himself in a helpless condition, with his mother and grandmother.
7. Bishai Mal's son, an orphan, with a sister.
8. Prasanna Chandra Banerji, with a family of five.
9. Kasi Chandra Chathati, an old man with a family of four.
10. Madun Dhopi, starving with a family of seven.
11. Umakanta Sil, with a family of eight.
12. Bhajahari, with a family of seven.
13. Gangamani Sen Gupta, no one to help.
14. Sarada Sundari Das Gupta, in a helpless condition.
15. Bhagaban Chakravari, old and infirm, with a family of three.
16. Tarini Charan Sen, with a family of fourteen. In a helpless and starving condition.
17. Kanchanmala Dasi, old and infirm.
18. Navadurga Dasi, helpless.
19. Bidhumukhi Gupta, with a minor son.
20. Hari Mohan Yugi, old and rheumatic, with a family of four.
21. Mahamaya Dasi, with two infants.
22. Muktakesi Dasi, a blind woman.
23. Nibaran Chandra De, a rheumatic patient.
24. Panchi, a blind woman.
25. Siva Sundari, suffering from asthma.
26. Dayamayi Devi, an old woman having none to help her.
27. Rama Sundari Devi, an old woman.
28. Nagarvasi Pal, with a family of four.
53. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May complains that poor respectable Musalmans and *pardanishin* Musalman women are faring very ill in the prevailing famine. They cannot do any menial work or publicly beg for alms. The writer lately passed through many villages, and everywhere he saw the Musalmans in great distress. It does not appear that they are receiving any material help from the Famine Relief Fund. The President of the Famine Relief Fund Committee is requested to take immediate steps to relieve the distress of these Musalmans and save them from starvation. Much money is not wanted for this purpose.

54. The *Som Prakash* of the 10th May is surprised that Babu Traiokya-nath Sen, late Subdivisional Officer of Tangail, has been transferred to Dinajpur. Traiokya Babu was trying his best to relieve the distress of

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1897.

Improper transfer of a good famine officer.

the Tangail people. On the 9th April last, he telegraphed to Babu Pramathnath Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of Santoshpur, requesting him to help the famine-stricken tenants of Chinakhali and the adjacent villages. On the 14th April his transfer was gazetted. This strikes one as strange. No public officer is being transferred from any place in this year of distress. The transfer of the District Magistrate of Nadia was gazetted, but has since been postponed. Why has it been otherwise in the case of Trailokya Babu? Has he been punished because he gave out to the public that famine had broken out in Tangail?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

55. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd May writes as follows:—

The commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee.

The long reign of Queen Victoria is a memorable thing in history and something unprecedented in modern times. We will not presume to instruct the Queen-Empress as to the best mode of commemorating the sixtieth year of her reign. We will only give expression to a yearning of our hearts by saying that the celebration of the jubilee will not be felt by the people of India as complete if it is not crowned with the bestowal of some lasting right upon them.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1897.

56. The *Sahachar* of the 5th May says that Calcutta has a great want which Bombay and towns in the Northern-Western Provinces have not: it has no place for the accommodation of strangers.

A proposal for the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee.

In other towns there are Government serais as well as temples where strangers can obtain food and shelter free of charge. It is the desire of the public that this great want of Calcutta should be supplied on the occasion of the approaching jubilee. Let Government and the public then build a serai in Calcutta and call it the Jubilee serai. The Queen-Empress is a personification of charity, and will rejoice if this is done. The serai, if leased, will yield an income to Government.

SAHACHAR,
May 5th, 1897.

57. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 6th May says that the *Indian Daily News* has maliciously charged Musalman

The attitude of the Indian people towards the British rule.

preachers with creating disaffection among the Musalmans of India. If there is any disloyalty

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 6th, 1897.

among the Musalmans it is due, not to the preachings of Musalman preachers, but to the manner in which they are treated by their rulers. The people of India as a nation have always been law-abiding, and they have never risen against their sovereign without any cause. The fact is that only the well-to-do among the Indians are interested in the permanence of British rule; because they fear that the termination of that rule will be sure to bring about their ruin. But the poorer classes are restlessly looking forward to a change of the present rule as a change for the better as far as they are concerned.

58. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th May says that Mr. Reeves is not, as was to be

The Manager of the Tikari Estate.

expected, showing proper respect to the Maharani of Tikari who opposed his appointment as manager of the estate. Lately the District Judge, Gaya,

HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1897.

having called upon the Maharani to furnish some accounts by a prescribed date, she instructed Mr. Reeves to submit those accounts within the prescribed time, but Mr. Reeves did not do so. The Maharani was therefore called upon for an explanation, and Mr. Reeves did not assist her even in submitting an explanation. How long will Government continue in this way to forcibly appoint Englishmen as managers of Native estates?

59. The same paper writes as follows:—

The loyalty of India and Canada compared.

The Republican Committee in Canada has sent for publication in Indian newspapers a proclamation in which the following passage occurs:—

HITAVADI.

"We desire a change of Government from a degrading colonial dependency to a free and prosperous independent Canadian Republic."

Just notice this presumption of Canada. Canada has autonomy in all but the name, and yet she feels aggrieved and desires political separation from England. We are not aware that England is making any endeavour to suppress this rebellious spirit. But even if a mad man had expressed such

sentiments in India, he would have, in all probability, been hanged. This reminds one of a story told of the god Panchananda. The eldest son of a householder was a very naughty boy who used to spoil the place where the god Panchananda dwelt. The god not daring to punish the boy, punished his father by threatening to break the neck of his younger son, an innocent inoffensive creature. The Indians are a loyal people, and yet if anybody calls Tantia Topee a lover of freedom or Tikendrajit a patriot or the Burmese heroes fighting for the independence of their country, the cry is raised that attempts are being made to sow the seeds of disaffection in the country and Government is called upon to promptly suppress the spirit of sedition.

BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1897.

60. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th May has the following:—

The rejoicings which are taking place all over India, in anticipation of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen-Empress, possess a deep significance, and as such, should be carefully noted by the British Government. Let Englishmen see, ponder over the matter, and plainly say whether such a unique and novel demonstration of loyalty can ever be possible in any other part of the world—in any other conquered country,—and whether it was ever given to man to witness such an extraordinary spectacle! What nobody had ever conceived or believed to be possible is a fact to-day, witnessed by all.

The spectacle has startled and surprised all the crowned heads of the world. Disease and sorrow, scarcity of food and water, and plagues and epidemics, have converted India into a vast cremation ground, and reduced her sons to skeletons. But so great is the vitalising power of loyalty that even in this misery, India to-day wears a gentle and smiling appearance, and her children appear hale and hearty. Did anybody ever see the like of this? It is as if all of a sudden lotuses are seen blooming in an arid desert, as if the full moon has unexpectedly arisen on a dark and cloudy new moon night. And why should not the sovereigns of the earth feel surprised? Why should not Russia, Germany, Italy, Austria, France, the United States of America witness the spectacle with bewilderment? If in an arid desert, devoid of water or the slightest trace of vegetable life, and parched by the scorching sun of June, hundreds of fresh-water springs were to gush forth, hundreds of streams were to flow, rippling along, and thousands of lakes were to make their appearance, and a hundred thousand lotuses were found blooming, and water-birds were seen disporting themselves on the waters, the sight would be one that would surprise not man alone, but even the gods of heaven.

So transported with joy is the Hindu, that he is almost tempted to think that mother Durga is coming to visit India before her time, that this year June will be Aswin, the month in which she is worshipped, and that the rainy season will become the autumn. Englishmen, see and enjoy the sight to your heart's content, show it to others, and have it recorded in letters of gold in the world's history.

Is this loyalty fictitious and unreal? According to some Englishmen this is all lip loyalty, and they point to instances in which a Bengali has abused Englishmen or talked disrespectfully of them, or has uttered the insinuation that the Indians will be happy if the English leave India. There are also Englishmen who speak of the Bengali newspapers as seditious. Statements like these cause as much sorrow as amusement. Is it not painful to an innocent man to find that an attempt is being made to prove him a thief? The man who possesses no sword or musket, whose body has become emaciated through disease and starvation, whose hand, through loss of practice, trembles even to grasp a stick, not to speak of holding swords and guns, is a rebel indeed! The suggestion is simply ludicrous. How can that people rebel of whom not even a dozen can unite for the purpose of establishing a joint-stock company, who cannot keep alive an association for any length of time, and who unite or combine only to quarrel and disperse? How can that people rebel who are unable to make and follow a leader? Englishmen, just tell us how can that people think of disobeying your rule and driving you out of India? What you say, therefore, is really amusing, and you say it perhaps in jest. But it is not proper to indulge in cruel jest. It is not right to call a beggar an emperor, even in jest. You are our conquering sovereign, you are to us as our father and

god, while we are your conquered subjects, like your children. Do not jest with us in this way again.

Bear one thing in mind. A true friend never seeks to humour or flatter his friend or master. A friend is neither a *mosahib* nor a flatterer. We pride ourselves on our high birth; we can be your friends, not your flatterers. We say only what we think is good, no matter whether what we say sounds sweet or harsh. We may be wrong, but we never forget our purpose.

It is not proper to stigmatise as seditious any strong or adverse criticism made under the influence of temporary irritation. There are moments when parents abuse their children. Their abuse proceeds from love and affection.

What we ask Government is this—are not harsh words from a loving heart better than sweet words from a bitter heart? To-day, on the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, the people of India are praying to God for the continuance of British rule; and this is the severest test of their loyalty. It is not proper to take any notice of any unpleasant things which they may have at any time said of that Government. Criticisms like those will be made so long as the people of India will remain loyal and friendly to the British Government, and all attempts to suppress such criticism will impair that loyalty and destroy that love which the Hindu feels for English rule. It behoves the wise English Government to think over the matter and judge for itself.

61. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th May supports the proposal of founding an Commemoration of the Diamond Imperial Institute in Calcutta in commemoration Jubilee. The London Imperial Institute has been founded with the help of the Indian millionaires. An Imperial Institute may be founded in Calcutta with the pecuniary help of the Bengal millionaires. Such an institute will promote Science and Art and will be a fitting memorial of the reign of the Queen-Empress.

62. In the opinion of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th May, the best way of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee is to relieve the millions of famine-stricken people in the country. Rejoicing and merry-making will not befit the present occasion. There was merry-making all over the country ten years ago when the Queen-Empress completed the fiftieth year of her reign. Twice every year her reign is celebrated once on her birthday and once again on the anniversary of her assumption of the title of Queen-Empress. No merry-making is, therefore, needed again on the occasion of her completing the sixtieth year of her reign. The Musalman rulers used to signalise such events by granting jagirs and rewarding deserving public officers. The English Government should signalise the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign at least by releasing well-behaved prisoners and reinstalling deposed Native Chiefs.

63. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 9th May hopes that on the occasion of the forthcoming Jubilee Diamond Raja Rajendra Narain Rai Bahadur will be made a Maharaj, his able and public-spirited dewan, Babu Kali Prasanna Ghosh, a Rai Bahadur or a C.I.E., Nawab Ahsanulla Bahadur a K.C.S.I., Raja Surya Kanta Acharyya Bahadur a Maharaj, and Rai Abhaya Charan Mitra Bahadur a C.I.E.

URIYA PAPERS.

64. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 24th March suggests that the Governor and other privileged officers of British India should forego the pleasure of summer residence in hill stations in the present year, and devote the money thus saved to the relief of the poor and famished people, and thereby diminish mortality arising from starvation.

65. The same paper does not approve of the policy of the Secretary of State for India in explaining away the heavy mortality of the Central Provinces by attributing a great portion of it to cholera and other diseases, forgetting that such diseases follow in the wake of starvation, which compels its victims to live upon insufficient and unwholesome food, and suggests that the poverty of the Indian people should be proclaimed and steps taken at once to remove the same.

SANJIVANI,
May 8th, 1897.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 8th, 1897.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 8th, 1897.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 24th, 1897.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

URIA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 24th, 1897.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Mar. 27th, 1897.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Mar. 24th, 1897.

66. The same paper suggests that the Plague Regulations, lately framed by the Provincial Governors in British India, should be administered with judgment and with as little friction as practicable. The *Samvadavahika* of the 26th March gives a similar advice.

67. The *Utkaldipika* of the 27th March does not approve of the increase to the fixed household allowance of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the present season of distress, and observes that the increment might have been deferred to a more prosperous time.

68. The same paper is glad to state that the Maharaja of Keonjhar, while inspecting the Anandpur subdivision of his killa, became aware of the scarcity of food in that subdivision, and by way of giving relief to his tenants, remitted a portion of the revenue due to his State, and increased the salaries of some of his ministerial officers who were in distress. The Maharaja, in consultation with the Government Agent, Babu Rash Behari Naik, raised subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 1,293, to which he himself added Rs. 500, which will be sent to the Indian Famine Relief Charitable Fund.

69. Alluding to the increased activity of the District Officers of Puri in matters of sanitation, the same paper admits that railway communication with Puri has, no doubt, increased their responsibilities, so far as public health is concerned, but that is no reason why the rate-payers of the Puri Municipality should be fined in the shape of being called upon to meet the cost of cleansing their compounds and outhouses, which is sometimes double or treble the actual cost.

70. The same paper informs the Mukhtarship Examination Committee that the oral examination of the candidates who appeared at the Cuttack centre on the 23rd February last was entrusted to Babu Kadarnath Chatterji, the Officiating Munsif of Cuttack, who

kept them almost confined in a room from 10 A.M. to 10-30 P.M., asked them an unusually large number of questions, and rejected the prayers of some of them to be examined on the next day. As many of the examinees were treated cruelly and were kept waiting without refreshment for several hours, it is but natural that both the examiner and the examinees must have lost the equanimity of their temper, and that this must have assumed an extreme form in the case of the examinee, Shiva Narayan Naik, who was the last of the batch, and who has made a representation on the subject to the Secretary of the Examination Committee. The Editor says that some consideration ought to be shown to those of the examinees who may have suffered in the way indicated above.

71. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 24th March regrets to observe that the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur did not, by peremptorily closing the Huma mela of the Central Provinces, consult the feelings of a large number of Hindus. If there was any necessity for such a measure the matter should have been notified to the general public beforehand.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th May 1897.